

Fig. 38 shows example definitions of group patterns.

Various group forms are defined as group patterns GP1 to GP5 as shown in Fig. 38, in which a group pattern GP1 indicates that three conference participants HM1 to HM3 have no group, a group pattern GP2 indicates a state in which conference participants HM1 and HM2 form a group,

The frequency table shown in Fig. 39 indicates that, as a result of the experiment, when the attention destinations of the conference participants HM1 to HM3 are all zero, the group pattern GP1 is formed 10034 times, the group pattern GP2 is formed 130 times, ..., and the group pattern GP5 is formed 3024 times.

A group pattern is determined in the experiment, for example, by a person who sees the state.

According to such a frequency table, the group pattern corresponding to an attention pattern of the conference participants HM1 to HM3 is selected so as to have the highest probability, and the group determination table shown in Fig. 40 is made from the selected correspondences.

In the frequency table shown in Fig. 39, when the attention destinations of the conference participants HM1 to HM3 are all zero, the group pattern GP1 has the highest frequency. Therefore, when the conference participants HM1 to HM3 have an attention destination of 0, which is shown by (0, 0, 0), the group pattern is set to GP1.

When the conference participant HM3 has an attention destination of 1 and the other conference participants HM1 and HM2 have an attention destination of 0, which is shown by (0, 0, 1), the group pattern is set to GP4 according to the frequency table shown in Fig. 39.

A group pattern having the highest frequency is determined for each of all attention-destination patterns to make the relationships between attention-destination patterns and group patterns shown in Fig. 40.

The seating-order determination device GJD holds a group determination table generated in advance, like that described above, to determine the group corresponding to an attention pattern of the conference participants HM1 to HM3 by referring to the group determination table when it receives attention-degree information from the teleconference devices TCD, and generates seating-order information according to the group determination.

8. Second example of grouping processing which uses a statistical relationship, in the seating-order determination device

In the foregoing case, all attention patterns are independently handled when the frequency table between attention patterns and group patterns is generated. In a second case, attention patterns similar to each other are

collectively handled to generate a frequency table, and a group determination table is formed according the frequency table.

When attention-destination patterns of the conference participants HM1 to HM3 are (0, 0, 2), (0, 1, 0), (0, 3, 0), (2, 0, 0), and (3, 0, 0), for example, their mutual attention-destination relationships are substantially the same as attention destinations obtained by rotating and/or inverting those of (0, 0, 1). Therefore, for example, the group patterns GP1, GP2, GP3, GP4, and GP5 corresponding to an attention pattern of (0, 0, 2) are regarded as the same as the group patterns GP1, GP2, GP3, GP4, and GP5 corresponding to an attention pattern of (0, 0, 1), obtained by inverting (applying inversion for a segment drawn from the conference participant HM3 to the middle of the conference participants HM1 and HM2 to) the group patterns of the attention pattern of (0, 0, 2), similar attention patterns are collectively handled as an attention pattern of (0, 0, 1), and then statistics is obtained.

In this case, when an attention pattern of (0, 0, 1) corresponds to determination group patterns GP1, GP2, GP3, GP4, and GP5 in a group determination table, an attention pattern of (0, 0, 2) corresponds to the determination group patterns GP1 GP2, GP3, GP4, and GP5.

In other words, in the second case, each set of